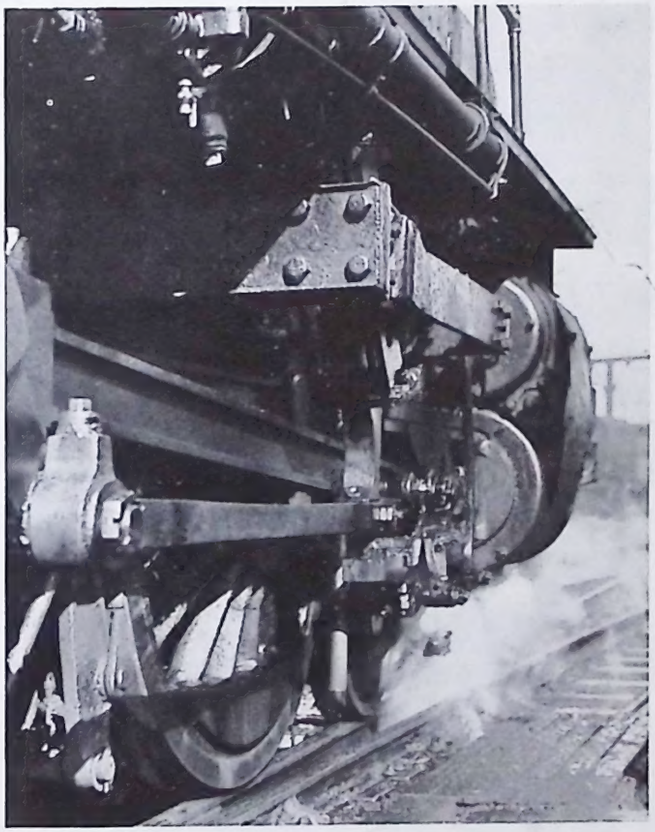
M-G-M Experts, Toronto, Preparing for Gala "Romeo and Juliet" Presentation

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 28, No. 22 TORONTO 2, CANADA September 19th, 1936



Of course Leo of M-G-M is at the throttle of the Entertainment Express that will carry you through 1936-37, *your* M-G-M year of unprecedented success!

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THE NEW SEASON!

PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

IT'S GORGEOUS!

A year ago M-G-M started the New Season with "China Seas".
"China Seas" was *great* but—
"Mutiny on the Bounty" *topped* it!
Then "San Francisco" *trimmed* "Mutiny's" sails and "Frisco" became one of the greatest attractions of all time until—

"GORGEOUS HUSSY" STARTS THE FALL SEASON BY TOPPING THE GREAT "SAN FRANCISCO"!

Sweeping on to new and bigger triumphs M-G-M reveals below very briefly (more later) the line-up of releases from now until New Year's. It's GORGEOUS!

IT'S HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM NOW TO JAN. 1st!

JOAN CRAWFORD

ROBERT TAYLOR

JEAN HARLOW

MYRNA LOY

AUG. 28th—THE GORGEOUS HUSSY—Joan Crawford, Robert Taylor, Lionel Barrymore, Franchot Tone.

SEPT. 4th—THE GREAT ZIEGFELD—William Powell, Myrna Loy, Luise Rainer, Frank Morgan, Virginia Bruce.

SEPT. 11th—SWORN ENEMY—Robert Young, Florence Rice, Joseph Calleia, Lewis Stone.

SEPT. 18th—THE DEVIL IS A SISSY—Freddie Bartholomew, Jackie Cooper, Mickey Rooney, Katherine Alexander.

SEPT. 25th—OLD HUTCH—Wallace Beery, Cecilia Parker, Eric Linden.

OCT. 2nd—THE LONGEST NIGHT—Robert Young, Florence Rice, Reginald Owen, Ted Healy.

OCT. 9th—LIBELED LADY—Jean Harlow, William Powell, Myrna Loy, Spencer Tracy.

OCT. 16th—ALL AMERICAN CHUMP—Stuart Erwin, Robt. Armstrong, Betty Furness.

NOTE: *The releases on this page, great as they are, reflect only a small part of the Star, Story and Production resources of M-G-M's Greatest Year.*

OCT. 23rd—LOVE ON THE RUN—Joan Crawford, Clark Gable, Franchot Tone. (*Also Oct. 23rd*—APRIL BLOSSOMS, Richard Tauber.)

OCT. 30th—MISTER CINDERELLA—Jack Haley, Betty Furness, Arthur Treacher, Raymond Walburn.

NOV. 6th—THE WHITE DRAGON (temp. title)—Elissa Landi, ZaSu Pitts, Edmund Lowe.

NOV. 13th—BORN TO DANCE—Eleanor Powell, Una Merkel, Frances Langford, Buddy Ebsen, Virginia Bruce.

NOV. 20th—OUR RELATIONS—Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Daphne Pollard, James Finlayson.

NOV. 27th—CAMILLE—Greta Garbo, Robert Taylor.

DEC. 4—THIN MAN RETURNS—William Powell, Myrna Loy.

DEC. 11th—S. S. VAN DINE story (title, cast later)

DEC. 18th—TARZAN ESCAPES—Johnny Weissmuller, Maureen O'Sullivan.

DEC. 25th—MAYTIME—Jeanette MacDonald, Nelson Eddy.

CLARK GABLE

GRETA GARBO

WILLIAM POWELL

JEANETTE MacDONALD

SPENCER TRACY

WALLACE BEERY

FREDDIE BARTHOLOMEW

JOHNNY WEISSMULLER

ELEANOR POWELL

NELSON EDDY

LAUREL & HARDY

In Memory of

IRVING THALBERG

Who passed away

in his thirty-seventh year

September the fourteenth.

Nineteen hundred and thirty-six.

Canadian Moving Picture Digest.

Toronto Closes Year's Greatest Annual Show, Canadian National Exhibition

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Established 1915
Publication Weekly
Subscription: $5.00 yearly
Telephone: WAverley 4929
259 Spadina Ave., Toronto
Digest International Press Film Service syndicating 500 leading newspapers in Canada, U.S.A. and Great Britain.
Cable: Ontocanada

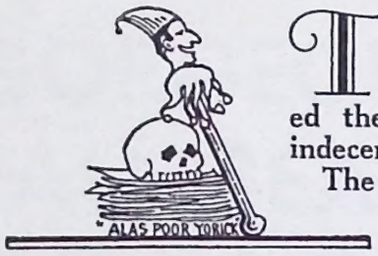
RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher
THE LITTLE PAPER WITH THE BIG IDEAS
"Easy to Digest"

Published by Canadian Moving Picture Digest Company, Limited

Representatives:
Dennison Thornton
15 Redcliffe Square, Earl's Court, London, S.W. 10, England.
Leon S. Stone
Elgin St., Gordon, N.S.W., Australia.

Vol. 28, No. 22 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | September 19th, 1936

CATHOLICS TO BOYCOTT INDECENT FILMS



THOUSANDS of Catholics in churches in Ontario pledged themselves to boycott indecent moving pictures. The Rev. Father W. J. Oliver of St. Basil's Church, Toronto, read the pledge to the congregation, pointing out that the pledge was neither compulsory, nor obligatory, but that the people were invited of their own free will to support the pledge. In some of the churches, the priests, in reading the pledge, explained the benefits which the Community would receive by a faithful adherence to the principles advocated.

The pledge calls for a condemnation of indecent and immoral moving pictures, those which glorify crime and criminals, and a promise to co-operate by strengthening public opinion against such films.

Furthermore, the pledge entails a promise to stay away from pictures listed as unworthy in the Catholic press and church bulletins.

Several prominent women were asked to comment on the introduction of the pledge, and the gist of their replies was to the effect that any constructive moral action was a good thing.

We believe that the best in motion pictures will be presented and will multiply itself, if not only the Catholic Church but all Churches, and other organized bodies, expressive of public opinion, support the Better Films which are presented, with the same vim and interest, as is their opposition toward such films as they in a general way condemn.

It is a human weakness to oppose vice publicly, but to give no public support to that which remains inconspicuously good. Vice is after all, the negative of virtue, bad the negative of good.

Why not a pledge in support of Better Films, which leaves the "Bad Films" out in the cold, where they will quickly freeze to death.

There is no better, or more profitable publicity for "Bad Films", than the organized opposition of a Church or Association. The public is always curious enough to endeavor to find out what it's all about; aside from this angle, what about the Anti-Christ Propaganda which is destroying the world? Why not unite in a pledge to oppose the cult of paganism which turns a nation into a God of War, and human beings into war-ammunition with which to feed the monster.

When will worshippers in churches be asked to raise their hands in a pledge which reads, "I am my brother's keeper?" A pledge which recognizes that a man's religion is God's Business and the man's Business, and no other man's Business, a pledge which recognizes that all races, and nations, have their place in the Sun; and that no nation shall have the right to trespass upon the rights of each other.

The film question is a puny question in comparison to the world's grave problems.

Oh, for that spirit in the church which will inspire the people to resist this demoniacal spirit through which men seek to destroy, and which in turn will destroy the destroyer!

Where is that leader who has no ambition for gold or power, who is as simple in his wants, as were the prophets of the Old and New Testament, and who will deliver the people of the world from self-destruction?

For such a leader, for such a Faith, millions of hands will uplift themselves, palm to palm, fingertips pressed against fingertips in supplication, and in prayer!

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

Special To Canadian Moving Picture Digest From Digest's Washington Bureau.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 14—(CTP)

OUR second Washington press wire is herewith presented. As in our first presentation our readers will find this Washington news, palatable and Easy to Digest.

"Motion picture activity both on Capitol Hill and in Official Washington during the past several months has perhaps done more to sustain the contention that Government is slowly but surely taking a definite hand in the running of the industry than any period heretofore witnessed.

"Hearings on Capitol Hill relative to the present block-booking system, patent pooling, and copy-right laws, as well as interdepartmental studies and surveys pertaining to the motion picture industry have caused no little comment within the industry, and considerable interest on the part of the general public to whom the motion picture theatre has become an integral part of daily life.

"DURING the summer, Congressmen and Senators have pledged themselves to renew the fight for Government regulation of movies through new block-booking and copyright legislation at the next session of Congress opening in January.

"There can be no doubt that the government is definitely interested in the industry, and this together with the speedy developments in television has resulted in nothing short of alarm on the part of those controlling the industry on the West Coast and in New York City.

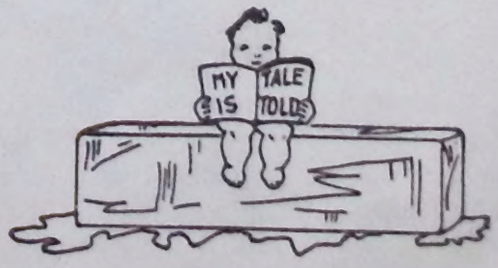
"This alarm was given added momentum recently when it was revealed that the Department of Justice has just sent out a special secret questionnaire to motion picture distributing companies and theatre circuits seeking detailed information regarding properties held by the theatre interests and product deals made by the film companies. Although Assistant Attorney General Dickinson has admitted to the Digest Correspondent that his office has dispatched the questionnaires no amplification was given out. In some quarters the questionnaire is viewed as a political gesture, as a move more or less to keep the motion picture industry, dominated very largely by Republican big shot executives, in check for President Roosevelt at the November elections.

"TELEVISION, however is considered by more than a few to be a boon rather than a threat to the Motion Picture Industry. It is believed in many quarters that Television broadcasters and the motion picture industry will eventually work hand in hand for the common good.

"According to Andrew W. Cruse, chief of the Electrical Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, television is no threat at all to the motion picture industry. Mr. Cruse told the Canadian Moving Picture Digest correspondent, "Television is going to make the motion picture industry a bigger and better industry than it has ever in its wildest dreams hoped to be".

"At the present time the United States is the largest producer of motion pictures in the world, and in addition to our own production, a great many foreign pictures are imported each year—yet according to the statistics supplied by the Motion Picture Section of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, if every foot of film produced here plus every foot imported were used for Television we still would have only enough material from that source to supply us with a maximum of three hours entertainment each day, provided of course each picture was transmitted but once.

"Mr. Cruse believes definitely that television will in no way keep the people away from the motion picture or the legitimate theatre any more than has radio broadcasting or home movies.



Universal's Big Grosses on "Show Boat" Makes It Box-Office Ace Around the World

OKAY, CANADA.

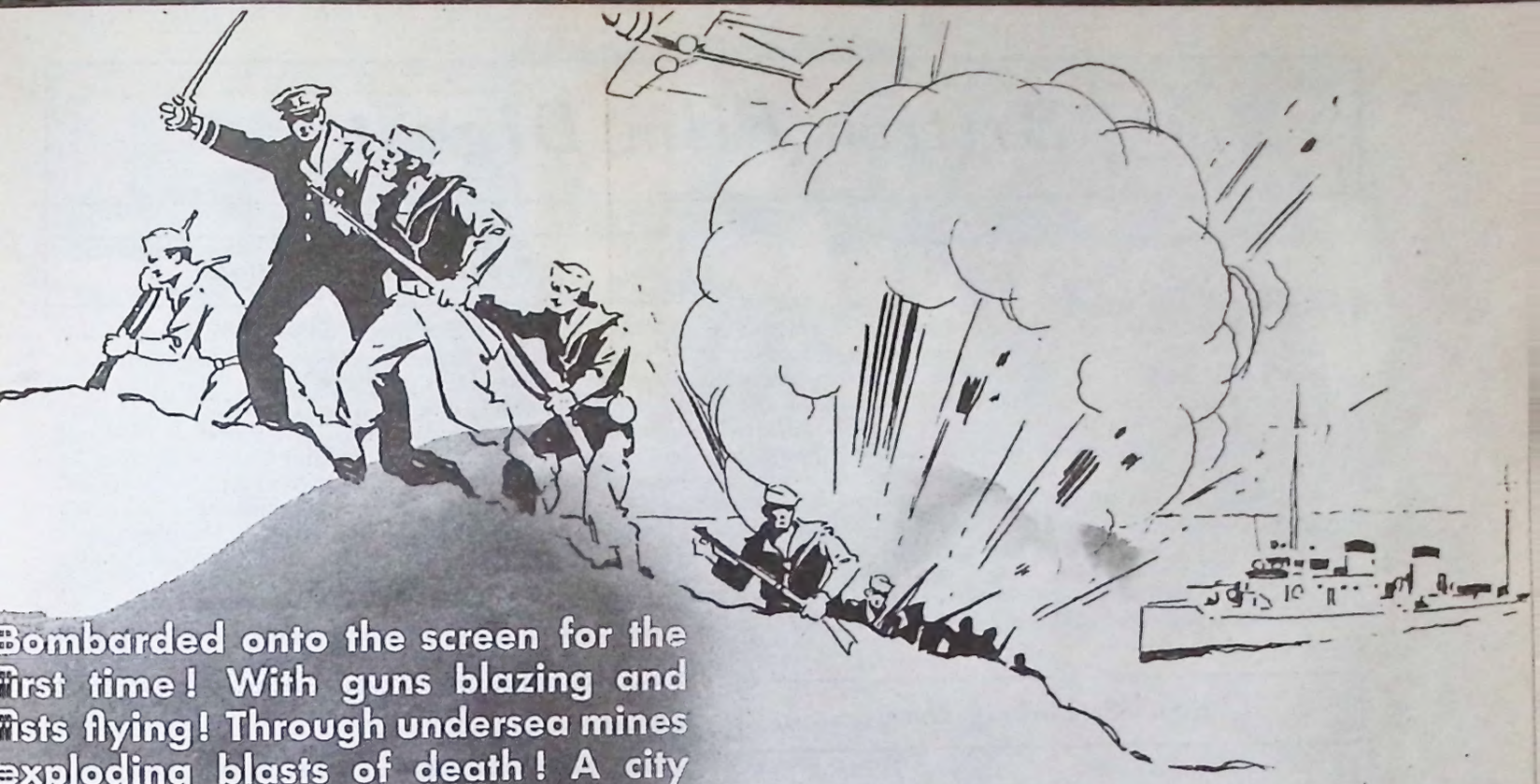
The queen and king of captivating rhythm in their gayest, grandest show!

New Dance Creations!
New Song Sensations!
Laughs More Joyous Than Ever!

F

AST

HERE COMES THE COAST GUARD!



Bombarded onto the screen for the first time! With guns blazing and fists flying! Through undersea mines exploding blasts of death! A city smashed to smithereens in a shower of shells! Houses blown to bits like match-boxes! A cast of 200! Spectacular, thrill-packed, high-explosive Entertainment!

JOHN WAYNE

in *The*

SEA SPOILERS

with NAN GREY • FUZZY KNIGHT
WILLIAM BAKEWELL • GEORGE IRVING
LOTUS LUNG • RUSSELL HICKS

Directed by FRANK STRAYER
Produced by TREM CARR

THE *new* UNIVERSAL'S NEWEST ACTION SMASH!

British Film Digest

Special to The Digest, from Dennison Thornton, London Correspondent.

LESLIE ARLISS and Curt Siodmak, Gaumont-British scenarists, have been visiting Scotland to get material for the "Rob Roy" subject which goes into production at Shepherd's Bush in the near future. The producers assure us that no Scottish dialect will be used in the picture. The players will speak ordinary English. Audiences outside Scotland would never understand dialogue in dialect, they tell us. How right they are!

And while on the subject of future production plans, I am duty-bound to record that the Lady Hamilton-Horatio Nelson picture which Herbert Wilcox was planning as a vehicle for Anna Neagle, has fallen through. Mr. Wilcox heard the Warner Brothers were considering the same subject. Wherefore the reason for his decision.

Hunt Stromberg Here

HUNT STROMBERG, the man who produced "The Thin Man", "Treasure Island" and "The Great Ziegfeld" for M-G-M, recently arrived here to attend the Derby. Next to producing box-office smashing pictures his biggest passion is horses. He has been with M-G-M for eleven years and during that time has produced 83 films for that company. Here are some of his remarks delivered in an interview:—

"'The Thin Man' was a hit because it made audiences forget they were in a theatre. The eye is the least important organ in show business; if you can get direct to the heart the film must be a success . . . I think we are getting vision in the picture business. We no longer think it all important for a picture to make a big profit. We think of the next six pictures . . . Colour will come when the public wants it, and it doesn't seem to want it yet."

Clash!

ERICH POMMER, who recently announced that he would produce a picture called "Troopship" dealing with the few hours spent ashore at Southampton by soldiers transferring from one territory to another, has been having a battle with Irving Asher, production chief of Warner's-British. Mr. Asher maintains that he had the same idea and had bought a story, "Hail and Farewell", for shooting in the near future. Mr. Pommer, who produces for London Films, declares it makes no difference to him whether Mr. Asher had the same idea or not. He is going ahead on the picture as soon as preliminaries are completed. Mr. Asher says he's going ahead on his film, too. Who will make the picture first? Well, Mr. Asher's job is to produce "quota" pictures. He can made a "quickie" if he wants and beat Mr. Pommer to it by a long stretch. Mr. Pommer, on the other hand, is out to make a super-production which means he will spend just about four times more money on the subject. Moreover it will be produced for a world market whereas Mr. Asher's picture would probably be limited to the English market. Anyway, we'll just have to wait and see what's what!

Production Note Book

FOX-BRITISH are to film Dumas' "The Black Tulip" with Alexander Bryce directing . . . Robert Stevenson, director of "Nine Days a Queen" and "The Man Who Changed His Mind" (the latter being Karloff's G-B opus) is looking round for new stories . . . Florence Desmond, in "Accused" with Fairbanks Jr. and Dolores del Rio, has been signed by Criterion to a term contract . . . Universal-British making "The Eunuch of Stamboul" . . . Hans Schwartz has been signed by Arnold Pressburger to direct "Edmund Kean" . . . "Robber Symphony", after a slow start, doing big business at the Palace . . . Your correspondent recently reviewed it in these columns . . . James A. Fitzpatrick en route to London to start work on his series of British features which are to be distributed in Canada by Mr. Nathanson's organization . . . Emlyn Williams, young actor-playwright, off to New York to star in his own play, "Night Must Fall" . . . John Gielgud, who stars in "Secret Agent", also off to New York to do his "Hamlet" and "Richard II", and will be seen in the former at the Royal Alexandra, Toronto. A big collection of old screen masterpieces including John Bunny, Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin and Italian epics, have been discovered in a disused cellar near Wardour Street . . . Paul Robeson said to be delighted with his British-Lion picture, "Song of Freedom".

Wardour Street Satirized

A GENUINELY amusing satire on life in Wardour Street has been written by Eric Siepmann in his book, "Waterloo in Wardour Street" (published here by Chatto & Windus). The story concerns the birth of a new British producing company — B.H.F. Ltd. For a time these letters stand for plain Boni, Houndsditch and Funckel, but with the advent of a rearmament period and the rebirth of a British studio nationalism the letters are made to represent British Historical Films. The company's initial opus — a staggering, gigantic, mammoth, super-epic spectacle of spectacles — is "The History of England". Billions of pounds or dollars are poured into the venture. Publicity matter floods the entire world. Terrific ballyhoo stunts are arranged. Indeed so terrific is the advance ballyhoo and so much press stuff is published hailing the producer as a genius of the very first rank that the man finds himself believing all these things. He begins to suffer from hallucinations and imagines he is Napoleon reincarnated as a film magnate. All the worlds biggest stars are announced as having been signed for the colosal epic. In fact such a fuss is made that before a single foot of film has been shot the picture starts smashing home to big grosses out of ballyhoo alone! So having made a profit the company folds up and — well, read it for yourself.

If you happen to know Wardour Street you will recognize many of the characters in the book. If you don't, you'll still enjoy it.

Charles and Spyros Skouras Fox Wesco, 500 Theatres, Invite Film Representatives Round Table Conference

Show Business

"Pickwick" Planned with English Cast

An all-English cast will be gathered in England and brought to Hollywood by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, for the film production of Charles Dickens' "Pickwick Papers", it was announced last week by the studio.

The production of "Pickwick Papers" will be the third Dickens story to be brought to the screen by M-G-M. The studio produced the successful "David Copperfield" and "A Tale of Two Cities", in both of which Hollywood players enacted most of the roles.

Big Cast Engaged for "Three Smart Girls"

A number of well known players have been added to the cast of "Three Smart Girls" which originally consisted of Deanna Durbin, Nan Grey and Barbara Reid, who play the three smart girls. The new players are Charles Winninger, Alice Brady, Binnie Barnes, Louis Hayward and John King. Lucille Watson will have an important role as will three new Universal character contractees, Hobart Cavanaugh, Ernest Cossart and Mischa Auer. "Three Smart Girls" is a story by Adele Commandini which will be directed by Henry Koster.

COMPLETE
Theatre Equipment and Supplies

Projectors and Parts.
Motor Generators.
Sound Screens.
Lenses, Carbons, etc.
Everything for the Theatre from Sheet to Street.

Coleman Electric Co.
258 Victoria St.
TORONTO, ONT.

"Stolen Holiday" Is Completed

Kay Francis's newest starring picture, "Stolen Holiday", was finished last week at the Warner Bros.-First National studios in Burbank, Calif., where Michael Curtiz has directed the production. Claude Rains and Ian Hunter have the two leading roles opposite Kay Francis, and some outstanding members of the supporting cast are Alison Skipworth, Walter Kingsford, Alexander D'Arcy, Charles Halton and Frank Reicher.

Arnold Belgard Signed for Wanger Script

Arnold Belgard has been signed by Walter Wanger to adapt the Allene Corliss novel, "Summer Lightning", for the next Joan Bennett vehicle, it was announced today. The screen version will be known as "All Ladies Are Women".

The picture is scheduled for early production, and will be released through United Artists.

Jane Cowl's Stage Play to be Filmed

"First Lady", satire on politics and Washington society, in which Jane Cowl starred on Broadway during the past season, will be filmed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer during the current season. The play is by Katherine Dayton and George S. Kaufman and ran throughout last season at the Music Box Theatre in New York

Whalen, Brennan in "Banjo on My Knee"

Michael Whalen and Walter Brennan will have featured roles in "Banjo On My Knee", the 20th Century-Fox picture co-starring Joel McCrea and Barbara Stanwyck. Brennan was borrowed from Samuel Goldwyn.

Flood to Direct RKO's "Coast Guard"

James Flood has been signed by RKO Radio to direct "Coast Guard", which Edward Small will produce next month with Preston Foster heading the cast.

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S — Manager Jules Bernstein — 2nd week M-G-M's "The Great Ziegfeld", starring William Powell, Myrna Loy and Luise Rainer.

TIVOLI—Manager D. Krendall — Jessie Matthews in G-B's "It's Love Again"; and Barbara Stanwyck and Gene Raymond in "The Bride Walks Out", an RKO Radio picture.

UPTOWN—Manager Jack Arthur — Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in RKO Radio's "Swing Time".

IMPERIAL—Manager Tom Daley — Fredric March and Warner Baxter in "The Road to Glory", a 20th Century-Fox production.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — Henry Fonda in Walter F. Wanger's "Spendthrift". On the stage, John Boles, with Red Skelton as M.C.

ROYAL ALEXANDRA—Manager W. J. Breen — The dramatic novelty of the New York stage, "The Night of January 16".

EGLINTON—Manager Bob Eves — Robert Taylor and Frank Morgan in M-G-M's "There's Always Tomorrow". Also Universal's "Nobody's Fool", with Edward Everett Horton.

HOLLYWOOD—Manager Raymond Allen — Myrna Loy and Spencer Tracy in "Whipsaw"; and "Trouble for Two" with Robert Montgomery and Rosalind Russell.

MADISON—Manager Tom Brady — Alice Brady in Gene Stratton Porter's "The Harvester"; also Roger Pryor and Wendie Barrie in "Ticket to Paradise". Both Republic pictures.

CASINO—Manager Harold Kay — Charles Butterworth and Frances Dee in "Half Angel", a 20th Century-Fox picture. Also stage show.

John Boles in Favour of Exchange of Stars with England. See Story Next Week's Issue

LONDON DISPATCH IN "THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER"

The Korda expenditures on pictures here has the other producers worried for the reason they cannot approach those budgets or enter into competition with "Alex" in bidding for important writers, players and directors.

6 London Film Productions Specials That Will Be the Season's Finest and Most Important Box Office Hit!

Each production directed by or produced under the personal supervision of the great Alexander Korda. Each cast is headed by a star or stars that are among the most popular with movie-goers of any that appear on the screen today.

In story value they are definitely "tops," while in the matter of production they will be on a scale of magnificence that has never been surpassed.

Regal Films is proud to offer such an outstanding list of productions for booking by Canadian theatres and does so with the firm conviction that they will prove to be the season's most profitable bookings for every type of Canadian theatre.

LONDON FILM 6

ALL TITLES ARE TENTATIVE

CHARLES LAUGHTON
in
"REMBRANDT"

Directed by Alexander Korda. Life of the world-famous painter.

MARLENE DIETRICH and ROBT. DONAT
in
"KNIGHT WITHOUT ARMOUR"

Season's most sensational romantic drama with two best box office stars.

"ELEPHANT BOY"

Famous Rudyard Kipling story directed by Robt. Flaherty and filmed in India.

CHARLES LAUGHTON and MERLE OBERON
in
"I, CLAUDIUS"

From the best-selling novel that created such a sensation.

"LOVES OF A COSSACK"

Alexander Korda's production of the greatest of dramatic romances.

RENE CLAIR

Famous French director contributes one untitled production that will make history.

REGAL FILMS LIMITED, Sole Canadian Distributors